

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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STEEL SHOT FOR WATERFOWL HUNTING TO EXPAND IN 1977

The requirement to use steel shot for waterfowl hunting will be expanded within the Atlantic Flyway and broadened also into the Mississippi Flyway next autumn, the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced.

The proposed zones where steel shot would be required were published in the December 23, 1976, Federal Register. Public comments are invited through January 31, 1977. Comments should be addressed to: Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

An exception to the ban on lead shot was made this year for shotguns smaller than 12 gauge because of a lack of steel shot shells in these gauges. This same temporary exception is proposed for the 1977-78 season as well.

Steel shot was required this season in the Atlantic Flyway in parts of nine States. Next year it would be expanded significantly into areas of 13 States, an area large enough to affect 50 percent of the duck harvest within that flyway.

In the Mississippi Flyway, next hunting season will be the first for the proposed steel shot regulations. About 35 percent of the Mississippi Flyway harvest is included in the proposed zones for 11 States.

It is estimated that 2 million waterfowl die in the United States each year from lead poisoning that results when birds swallow spent lead pellets while feeding in wetlands where waterfowl hunting occurs. The pellets are ground down in the gizzards of waterfowl and the resulting lead salts pass into the blood stream causing a sickness that often leads to death.

(more)

In January 1976 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a Final Environmental Statement on this problem. The statement reviewed approximately 25 years of investigations on lead poisoning in waterfowl. Many wetlands contain two or more lead pellets per square foot in prime feeding areas for waterfowl. More than 50,000 gizzards of waterfowl have been examined throughout the United States and in all major waterfowl areas ducks are eating lead pellets. In some cases 25 to 50 percent of the ducks in an area have lead pellets in their gizzards.

The steel shot zones proposed for the 1977-78 hunting season are:

Atlantic Flyway

Connecticut--Those portions of Middlesex and New Haven Counties south of Interstate Highway 95.

Delaware--All waters of the State (including lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, rivers, streams, and Delaware Bay) and within a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of such waters. Drainage ditches and temporary sheet water more than 150 yards from the waters described above are excluded from the steel shot requirement.

Florida--That portion of Brevard County lying east of Interstate Highway 95, and the Counties of Leon, Citrus, Seminole, and Glades.

Maine--On the waters of the Kennebec River known as Merrymeeting Bay bounded as follows: from the high tension wires at Chops Point to the first dam on the Androscoggin River, to the first road bridge on the Muddy, Cathance, Abbagadasset, and Eastern Rivers and the Richmond-Dresden bridge on the Kennebec River, and within 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of these waters being in the Counties of Cumberland, Sagadahoc, and Lincoln.

Maryland--All waters (including lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, rivers, and streams, and Chesapeake Bay) in Worcester, Somerset, Wicomico, Dorchester, Talbot, Caroline, Queen Anne's, Kent, and Cecil Counties and those portions of Harford, Baltimore, and Anne Arundel Counties lying south and east of U.S. Route 1, and within a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of such waters. Drainage ditches and temporary sheet water more than 150 yards from the waters described above are excluded from the steel shot requirement.

Massachusetts--That portion of the State lying east of a line commencing at the New Hampshire State line and proceeding southward along U.S. Route 1 to its juncture with Route 3, then southeastward along Route 3 to its juncture with U.S. Route 6, then westward on U.S. Route 6 to include all areas to the south of this highway to the Rhode Island State line.

New Jersey--The following counties: Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Salem.

New York--Nassau and Suffolk Counties and that portion of upstate New York west of Interstate Highway 81 and north of the New York Thruway (Interstate Highway 90).

North Carolina--All waters (including sounds, lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, rivers, and streams) of Currituck, Dare, and Pamlico Counties and within a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of such waters in these three counties. Drainage ditches and temporary sheet water more than 150 yards from the waters described above are excluded from the steel shot requirement. The waters of the Cape Fear River and its tributaries in New Hanover and Brunswick Counties and a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the waters of this river and its tributaries in these two counties.

Pennsylvania--Crawford County; Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area in Lancaster and Lebanon Counties; and the waters of the Susquehanna River beginning at the confluence of the North and West branches at Northumberland and continuing southward to the Maryland-Pennsylvania State boundary and including a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the waters of the Susquehanna River that are described above.

Rhode Island--Bristol, Newport, and Washington Counties.

South Carolina--The waters of Lake Marion and Lake Moultrie and a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to these waters; and in Georgetown, Charleston, Colleton, and Beaufort Counties.

Virginia--The waters of the James, York, and Rappahannock Rivers and their tributaries and a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to these waters, and the waters of the city of Virginia Beach and a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to these waters.

Mississippi Flyway

Arkansas--All waters of Poinsett and Arkansas Counties and within a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of these waters. This includes lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, rivers, streams, and seasonally flooded areas of all types. Drainage ditches and temporary sheet water more than 150 yards from the water areas described above are excluded from the steel shot requirement.

Illinois--(1) In the Counties of Putnam, Marshall, Calhoun, Jersey, Henderson, and Rock Island. (2) All waters of State managed waterfowl hunting areas that are not included in (1).

Indiana--(1) On all waters of Newton, Porter, Lake, Jasper, LaPorte, Starke, Pulaski, St. Joseph, Marshall, Fulton, Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Whitley, Steuben, and Posey Counties and within a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of these waters. This includes lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, rivers, streams, and seasonally flooded areas of all types. Drainage ditches and temporary sheet water more than 150 yards from the water areas described above are excluded from the steel shot requirement. (2) Within the boundaries of the following State-owned or State-operated properties: Monroe Reservoir in Monroe and Brown Counties, and Glendale Fish and Wildlife Area in Daviess County.

Iowa--In Fremont and Mills Counties on all waters and a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to these waters. The waters referred to above include lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, rivers, streams, and seasonally flooded areas of all types. Drainage ditches and temporary sheet water more than 150 yards from the water areas described above are excluded from the steel shot requirement.

Louisiana--(1) In Calcasieu, Cameron and Vermilion Parishes. (2) In that portion of the State bounded as follows: from Pineville northeast along State Highway 28 to Archie, then northwest along U.S. Highway 84 from Archie to Jena, then southwest along State Highway 8 from Jena to Pollock, then south along U.S. Highway 165 from Pollock to Pineville. (3) The green-tree reservoir located on the Saline Wildlife Management Area.

Ohio--On all waters of Erie, Ottawa, Lucas, and Sandusky Counties and within a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of these waters. This includes lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, rivers, streams, and seasonally flooded areas of all types. Drainage ditches and temporary sheet water more than 150 yards from the water areas described above are excluded from the steel shot requirement.

Michigan--Five zones are proposed for this State. Road systems were used to define the boundaries of each. The following descriptions are of a general nature and do not identify road boundaries. More detailed boundary descriptions can be obtained from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division: (1) The eastern portions of Monroe, Wayne, Macomb, and St. Clair Counties. (2) Those portions of Iosco, Arenac Bay, Saginaw, Tuscola, and Huron Counties on or adjacent to Saginaw Bay. (3) The northern half of Roscommon County and adjacent portions of Missaukee, Crawford, and Kalkaska Counties. (4) An area west of a line extending from Kalamazoo to the northern border of Muskegon County and the waters of Lake Michigan associated with these counties. (5) The eastern portions of Chippewa and Mackinac Counties.

Minnesota--(1) All waters within the boundaries of all State Wildlife Management Areas and within a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of these waters. This includes lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps,

rivers, streams, and seasonally flooded areas of all types. Drainage ditches and temporary sheet water more than 150 yards from the water areas described above are excluded from the steel shot requirement.

(2) On the waters of Swan and Middle Lakes in Nicollet County, North and South Heron Lakes in Jackson County, Pelican Lake in Wright County, Bear Lake in Freeborn County, and Christina Lake in Douglas and Grant Counties and within a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of the above lakes.

Missouri--All waters of St. Charles County and within a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of these waters. This includes lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, rivers, streams, and seasonally flooded areas of all types. Drainage ditches and temporary sheet water more than 150 yards from the water areas described above are excluded from the steel shot requirement.

Tennessee--All waters of Benton County and within a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of these waters. This includes lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, rivers, streams, and seasonally flooded areas of all types. Drainage ditches and temporary sheet water more than 150 yards from the water areas described above are excluded from the steel shot requirement.

Wisconsin--(1) In that portion of the State lying west of the Burlington Northern Railroad in Buffalo, Trempealeau, LaCrosse, Vernon, Crawford, and Grant Counties. (2) On all waters of Dodge, Green Lake, Jefferson, and Winnebago Counties, and that portion of Fond du Lac County lying west of a line formed by the Fond du Lac River and Highway 41 and that portion of Lake Winnebago in Calumet and Fond du Lac Counties, and that portion of Lake Poygan in Waushara County; and within a 150-yard zone of land adjacent to the margins of these waters. The waters referred to above include lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, rivers, streams, and seasonally flooded areas of all types. Drainage ditches and temporary sheet water more than 150 yards from the water areas described above are excluded from the steel shot requirement. (3) On the following State-owned wildlife areas: Mead Wildlife Area in Marathon, Wood, and Portage Counties; Mud Lake Wildlife Area in Columbia County; Theresa Marsh Wildlife Area in Dodge and Washington Counties.

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